

most of the land was owned by the state. However, I believe the expressions of support for NPS control of the area by the County and State offer a firm basis for moving forward. Therefore, I have included a provision in my bill to ensure that the proposed study includes consultation with the State of Hawaii to assess the feasibility of transferring some or all of the State lands in the study area to the federal government.

The State of Hawaii has been unable to effectively manage and protect these important resources due to lack of funds. Operators of four-wheel drive vehicles are unknowingly destroying valuable resources at this site due to lack of supervision, signage, and cultural interpretation materials. Further, this pristine coastline lies directly in the path of development and, absent action, too soon will be lost forever.

This is a site of national significance, which deserves the level of protection only the National Park Service can provide. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2003*

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidable detained on official business and was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 634 through 637. Had I been present, on rollcall vote No. 634, I would have voted "yes", on rollcall vote No. 635, I would have voted "yes", on rollcall vote No. 636, I would have voted "yes", and on rollcall vote No. 637, I would have voted "Yes."

#### RECOGNIZING GENE ARGO OF HAYS, PRESIDENT OF MIDWEST ENERGY

#### HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2003*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Kansan, Mr. Gene Argo, for his commitment to excellence and his devotion to service. This year, Mr. Argo will retire as president of Midwest Energy, based in my hometown of Hays, Kansas.

A true man of the west, Gene Argo drew many of his life lessons from his youth in Texas, including a profound love of nature and a respect for his fellow man. An avid bareback rider, Gene has learned that, through hardship and in the face of failure, you must always get back on your horse.

For the past decade, Mr. Argo has tirelessly devoted himself to the Midwest Energy Corporation. As president and general manager, he has guided the success of the company since 1992. Through his efforts, Midwest Energy has grown to serve 40 counties in western Kansas. As president, Gene Argo is respected by his employees not only because of his work ethic, but because he respects his employees in turn.

Mr. Argo's passion for progress has also made a profound difference in his community.

In Hays, Gene Argo served on various civic and industry organizations, including the board of directors of the Hays Medical Center and the Hays Medical Center Foundation. The community of Hays has also benefited under Mr. Argo's leadership as chairman of the Ellis County Economic Development Coalition and the Ellis County United Way. The growth of Ellis County is a testament to his vision and direction.

Gene Argo has also invested a great deal in the future of the State of Kansas. He supports Kansas youth as a member of the Kansas 4-H Foundation and also serves on the board of the Kansas Wildscape Foundation. An ardent hunter and sportsman, Gene is dedicated to preserving Kansas' natural beauty. As a small token of Kansas' appreciation, Mr. Argo was selected as the Leadership Kansas Alumnus of the Year in 2002.

In light of his many efforts and achievements, his family comes first. Gene and his wife Linda raised three children and are proud grandparents of three grandchildren.

Respected for his motivation and leadership, his employees will miss his starched shirts and smiles upon his retirement. I join his friends and family in extending to him my best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO MATTIE MARIE FRANKLIN MARSHALL

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2003*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to one of Texas' truly outstanding citizens, Mattie Marie Franklin Marshall. As we recognize her 70 years of service to our State's education and her multitude of contributions to our community, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements of this great woman.

Mattie Marie Franklin Marshall has devoted her entire life to the great State of Texas. Her life has been spent serving her fellow man—teaching, counseling, leading, advising, guiding, and nurturing.

She was born in Washington, Texas. Her father passed away when she was only two, but her mother watched her work her way upward despite many difficult obstacles.

Mattie continued the legacy of her sisters Ellie O. Laster, Anna M. Taylor, and Susie L. Jingles by becoming an educator. She began her adult life by working hard and knew success meant accepting life's challenges. She remained an educator for 35 years until she retired from the school system in 1977.

Following her retirement, Mattie broadened her public service from the school system to the greater community.

She was actively involved in the Girl Scouts of America, Young Women's Christian Association, the Friendly Neighborhood Club, Philodendron Garden Club, the Channele Club, and a Life Member of the Erma D. Leroy Club.

One of the highlights of her life was the organization of Fifth Ward Baptist Church. She was a founding member of the committee that organized the church and served as its first recording secretary. She has served her church with dedication for the last 59 years. In honor

of her tireless efforts on behalf of the Fifth Ward Baptist Church, its library was renamed the Mattie M.F. Marshall Library in June 2003.

Just as significant as all of Mattie's achievements is the spirit of community service she represents. Her willingness to help individual community members of our society as a whole is what makes her especially deserving of our recognition and praise.

The spirit of service she actively portrays is something we see far too little of in this society. And we all would do well to follow the shining example that Mattie Marshall has given us.

I know that Mattie will continue to play an important role in our community for years to come, and that America will continue to benefit from her dedication and service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mattie M.F. Marshall and in applauding this remarkable citizen for all she has done, and for all she has meant to those of us whose lives she has touched.

#### AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

#### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 20, 2003*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of American Diabetes Month.

In order to combat this deadly disease, we must focus on prevention, education and diet. Diabetes is the fifth-deadliest disease in the nation.

In California, there are about 2 million people with this disease. In my home county of San Bernardino over 100,000 have been diagnosed.

While this disease affects people of all walks-of-life, Hispanics are particularly vulnerable. Hispanics are almost two times as likely to develop Diabetes as non-Hispanic Whites. Twenty-four percent of Mexican-Americans in the United States currently have diabetes. Almost two million Hispanics struggle with the disease.

I don't have diabetes but my parents, my brother and my brother-in-law did. My father died of diabetes along with my brother. They didn't take care of it. We had a large family and could not afford health care.

Growing up, we ate what we could afford and too much of our diet contained foods like tortillas and frijoles that cause health problems and can eventually lead to diabetes. There was no health education or awareness. They didn't know how to take care of their diabetes. When they were diagnosed with diabetes they ignored it and it cost them their lives.

Fortunately, this disease can often be prevented.

We must educate our children and communities about the dangers of this disease. That is why American Diabetes Month is so important. We need to teach children prevention. The lifestyles they adopt today will carry over into their adult years. We are placing children at risk when we allow them to come home day after day, play videogames, sit in front of the TV and snack on soda and chips. Children eat what their parents eat and can afford. Eating a diet of high sugary foods—like tortillas, rice, and chips—at every meal is teaching our children unhealthy habits.